



Front Country Trails  
Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force

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Regular Meeting  
Wednesday, September 5, 2007  
5:30 p.m.  
City Council Chambers  
735 Anacapa Street, 2nd Floor, Santa Barbara

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Forsell called the regular meeting of the Front Country Trails Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force to order at 5:32 p.m. at the City Council Chambers, 735 Anacapa Street, 2nd Floor.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE  
Task Force Member Bensen

ROLL CALL: Task Force Members Present:

Steve Forsell	City Park & Recreation Commissioner
Beebe Longstreet	City Park & Recreation Commissioner
James Hickling	County Parks Commissioner 3rd District
Jeff Bensen	District Recreation Officer
	Los Padres National Forest

Task Force Members Absent:

Suzanne Perkins	County Parks Commissioner 1st District
Bruce Emmens	Public Use & Facilities Staff Officer
	Los Padres National Forest

City of Santa Barbara Staff Present

Jill Zachary	Assistant Parks and Recreation Director
Kathy Frye	Associate Park/Natural Areas Planner
Karla Megill	Executive Assistant

County of Santa Barbara Staff Present

Erik Axelson	Deputy Parks Director
Claude A. Garciacelay	ASLA, Park Planner

Los Padres National Forest Staff Present

Kerry Kellogg	Recreation Specialist, Santa Barbara Ranger District
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Chair Forsell introduced Jeff Bensen, District Recreation Officer, Los Padres National Forest, and newly appointed Task Force Member. Mr. Forsell advised that Mr. Bensen,

who is replacing Linda Riddle, has been involved in the process throughout the year and is very familiar with the Front Country Trails and the matters before the Task Force.

#### CHANGES TO THE AGENDA – None

#### PUBLIC COMMENT:

##### Speakers:

- Members of the Public: Matt Weinberg, David Pietraszewski, Chris Orr, Suzanna Young, and Kat Post

#### TASK FORCE AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

- Task Force Member Benson provided a briefing regarding the status of the trails as a result of the Zaca Fire.
- Task Force Member Forsell commented that two weekends ago he went hiking on Old Romero Canyon Trail after it had been graded, and it seemed natural for bicyclists. He commented that during the hike, which lasted about an hour and a half, he saw only one bicyclist. Mr. Forsell commented that the fire changed the feel of the trail.
- Ms. Zachary commented that staff received a couple of emails with Chris Orr's suggestions related to what to do in the future with the trails, particularly ones that have been affected by the fire.
- Ms. Zachary briefed the Task Force on a Risk and Trails Workshop, provided by a company called Prima, which many City and County staff and trail user groups attended. She said the workshop provided the opportunity for staff to spend time learning about risk management techniques. Ms. Zachary advised that at some point in the future when staff looks toward alternatives that the Task Force might consider, staff will bring that information to the Task Force as it is relevant to their discussions.
- Task Force Longstreet asked Ms. Zachary to bring information to the Task Force regarding the law related to high risk activities, stating that trail activities fall under the category of high risk activities.

#### 1. Approval of Minutes

Recommendation: That the FCT Multi-jurisdictional Task Force waive the reading and approve the minutes of the regular meeting of July 11, 2007.

##### Motion:

Task Force members Longstreet/Hickling that the Task Force approve the minutes of the regular meetings of July 11, 2007.

##### Vote:

3/0, Bensen abstained.

#### OLD BUSINESS - None

## NEW BUSINESS

### 2. Front Country Trail Use Alternatives

Recommendation: That the FCT Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force (Task Force) receive a presentation on alternative approaches to addressing trail use conflict.

#### Documents:

- Staff Report
- Staff PowerPoint Presentation

#### Speakers:

- Staff: Jill Zachary, Assistant Parks & Recreation Director; Erik Axelson, Deputy Director, Santa Barbara County Parks; Kerry Kellogg, Recreation Specialist, Santa Barbara Ranger District; Kathy Frye, Associate Planner, City of Santa Barbara
- Members of the public: Dave Everett, Chris Orr, Stephen Dougherty

#### Task Force Questions:

- Task Force Member Hickling asked for data regarding how the Boulder County Parks Open Space trails required restrictions were defined and what was the criteria. Mr. Hickling said the information is key or the Task Force.
- Task Force Member Longstreet said she would like to know what the survey looked like, what were they surveying, and who did the survey.
- Task Force Member Longstreet stated that she also has the same question regarding the criteria. She said the Task Force talks about it, but there is no neutral basis upon which to make decisions. She said if facts were available, it would eliminate emotions.
- Task Force Member Forsell commented regarding promoting good etiquette, that the County, City, and Forest Service are doing well with the carrot; there will be pamphlets and signage, etc. He expressed concern about the ability to enforce fines, speed limits, permitting, etc. He asked Mr. Axelson whether he has any experience in the enforcement of violations.
  - Mr. Axelson responded saying that the carrots of education and persuasion are needed, but at the same time, there needs to be some degree of policing, whether by user groups or trail management organizations. He said that in New York, finding a balance between effective enforcement and education was the key.
- Task Force Member Hickling expressed concern regarding odd/even programs, asking whether the trail is even suitable for either hiker or biker. He further said that the trails need to be looked at before that kind of decision can be made.
- Task Force Member Longstreet commented that with the odd/even there isn't a time that the equestrians were off, so she did not see where the problem was prevented. She said that it needs to be taken a step farther to where when the bikes are on, the equestrians are off, if that is the main conflict user group.

- Task Force Member Forsell asked whether there is another way to fund some source of marshalling or enforcement officers to enforce violations. He asked if the County or City could make an agreement to collect the fees and give it to the local Forest Service.
- Task Force Member Longstreet commented that this would be putting a fee on something the public sees as their rightful free activity.
- Task Force Member Forsell clarified that the fees would apply to commercial activities; not a hiker or bicyclist.
- Task Force Member Bensen commented that in the Salt Lake City example, the funds generated from the entrance fee are used for law enforcement as well as maintenance. He said it is a cooperative agreement between the County and the Forest Service.

### 3. Revised Work Plan and Meeting Schedule for 2007

Recommendation: That the FCT Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force (Task Force) approve a revised work program and meeting schedule for 2007.

Documents:

- Staff Report

Speakers:

- Staff: Jill Zachary, Assistant Parks & Recreation Director
- Members of the Public: Lynn Kirst and Tony Biegen

Task Force Comments:

- Task Force Member Hickling indicated that he is not available on December 1<sup>st</sup>.

Motion:

Task Force members Longstreet/Hickling that the Task Force approve the revised work program and meeting schedule for 2007.

Vote:

Unanimous voice vote

### ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

At 6:57 p.m., Task Force members Longstreet/Hickling that the Task Force meeting be adjourned.

Vote:

Unanimous voice vote

Respectfully submitted,

Jill E. Zachary  
Assistant Parks and Recreation Director